

RICHARD STOOKEY

ORIGINAL
FILE

361 LAIDLEY STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94131

DEC 16 1992

MAIL BRANCH

12 December 1992
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DEC 21 1992

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

92-266

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Dear FCC:

In your formulation of regulations under the 1992 Cable Television Consumer Protection Act, please take into account the considerations expressed in the attached letter, which was originally directed to all my congressional representatives prior to the passage of the Act.

Please also note that the cable television company serving our area, the Viacom Corporation, has announced that it will be raising its rates effective 1 January 1993 -- up 95 cents per month (to \$23.40) for "limited cable" and up \$1.80 per month (to \$26.40) for "standard cable service."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Stookey
Richard Stookey

cc: Viacom Corporation
P.O. Box 1948
Seattle WA 98111-1948

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DEC 22 1992

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RICHARD P. TOISTER, PH. D.
10480 SOUTHWEST 96 TERRACE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33176

ORIGINAL
FILE

FCC MAIL ROOM

DEC 21 1992

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Dear Sir:

I am writing in reference
Cable regulation rate - MM Dorset
92-266 and cable customer
Service - MM Dorset 92-263 to

protect Stoner Cable - South
(Dade County, Fla.) proposed
rate increases. Their quality
and service are very inferior
and I cannot see another
rate increase.

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0

R. P. Toister

HARRY MITTELMAN
2903 N.E 163 ST
N.M.B. FLA 33160
906

ORIGINAL
FILE

92-266
92-263

DEAR SIR

I AM A SENIOR GOING TO BE 80. MY ONLY
SOURCE OF ENTERTAINMENT IS TV. I WAS
NOW THE CABLE INDUSTRY W/OT THEIR LOB-
BYIST IS THREATENING TO INCREASE ROOM I WAS
INCREASED FOR THE LAST 4 YEARS 4 TIMES.
I CANNOT AFFORD IT, AND SO MANY LIKE
ME ARE IN THE SAME BOAT. MY SOCIAL SEC.
IS \$719 DOLLARS A MONTH WITH NO WIFE. I AM
AT YOUR MERCY LIKE SO MANY OTHERS.
\$719 PAYS \$450 RENT TEL + ELECTRIC. WHAT'S
LEFT FOR ME. SO PLEASE FIGHT IT, IT WILL
BE A BLESSING. THANK YOU

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DEC 1994
MAIL ROOM

92-264

MM Docket

92-2

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Bear Lake, Mich.
Dec. 10, 1992

92-266

ORIGINAL
FILE

DEC 18 1992

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Dear Sirs:

I am writing you in
regards to Cable TV. In our
area in Northwest Michigan,
we have C-Tec Cable.

We are being charged \$22.60
a month for "garbage" being
shown us. We started paying \$11.95
for basic, and in two or three years
it has doubled (now the \$22.60 for basic).

Aren't there some controls on Cable
TV? We are either exposed to sports
until one could gag, or old B type
westerns, or something that appeals
only to complete idiots.

I speak on behalf of most of
the subscribers in this area.

The Attorney General in Lansing,
Frank J. Kelley has given me
this address to which I will
voice my complaint.

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UNRECORDED

SPR 1 5 740

Why must we pay so much
for so little? Some areas in
the state have Dr. Stigens
discount, but not in our county.

Help! Please Help!

Sincerely,

Emily Friend
1203 1/2 Maple St.,
Bear Lake, Mich.
49614

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Don't keep this for
BOOKS

FCC -

92-266 Dec. 14, 1992
We moved into this home in Oct 1988 and
subscribed to cable TV basic service starting
Nov. 1, 1988 at a monthly rate of \$18.60/mo.

Since then, the rate has been increased
rapidly. The latest rate increase went into
effect right after the re-regulation bill was
passed over the President's veto. The
rate was increased to \$25/month. This
Cable Company has no competition in our area.
They are: Wometco Cable TV, 1009 Oak Road,
Lilburn GA 30247 (Dunwoody County). Please
make them pay me a refund and stop
their rate increases. H.R. Moore
Tell me if I should write 5048 Fox Forest Circle
to someone else also. Lilburn GA 30247

597215
003
May

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FCC MAIL ROOM

GEORGE F. SOUTHWORTH
R.D. 3 BOX 3171
NEW TRIPOLI
PENNSYLVANIA 18066

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[DEC 23 1992]

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
December 15, 1992

Dear Mr. Commissioner

92-2667

I am writing to inform you that Blue Ridge Cable Television, my only local cable company, is increasing their charges to me for 1993 by in excess of 17% compared with the 1992 charges for the same service. They are adding one new channel - Sci-Fi - for 1993.

Since their annual rate increases over recent years have been quite reasonable and justifiable, it is quite clear to me that they are going for a

big increase before the new cable
television legislation becomes law next
year.

Since they are really an unregulated
monopoly at this time - I have no
alternative if I want cable TV - I
believe the FCC should pressure Blue
Ridge and the other cable companies
engaging in the same power plays into
re-adjusting their 1993 rates to more
moderate levels.

I will be watching for FCC action
in this direction over the coming weeks.

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Very truly yours,

George F. Southworth

Sus; Our rates were
raised again - enforce
the new cable law
O.R. - folks won't
be able to afford
watching T.V.

COX CABLE T.V.

SANTA BARBARA
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DEC 21 1992

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



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209 Comly Road Apt. I-15
Lincoln Park, N.J. 07035
December 18, 1992

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

F C C
1919 M St. Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20554

Sirs:

I was a subscriber to UA Columbia for past fifteen years.
My rate was increased yearly until now when my rate was
again increased. The second one this year.

The newcomer TCI of New Jersey decided to welcome me with this
second increase.

I am objecting to these increases and ask you to look into this
matter why they can get away with it.

Also I am asking can Cable bill me in advance with a threat
that if I do not pay there will be a \$2 charge added onto my bill.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours truly,

Bernard Hendler

Bernard Hendler

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Dec. 17, 1992

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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FCC MAIL ROOM

FEDERAL C.C. NEWS MEDIA
1919 M ST. N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

DEAR SIR:

RE: CABLE T.V.

92-266

ABOUT SIX (6) YEARS AGO CONTROL WERE TAKEN OFF THE
CABLE RATES. SO THE MUNICIPALITIES HAD NOT CONTROL OVER RATES
FOR THE CONSUMER.

I AM TOLD THAT CONGRESS PASSED A LAW RE-INSTATING
SOME CONTROL ON RATES.

THE EFFECTIVE DATES WAS SET IN THE FUTURE - JUST ENOUGH TIME
TO ALLOW THE CABLE COMPANIES TO ONCE AGAIN INCREASE MY
RATES.

WE HAVE HAD ONE RATE INCREASE AFTER ANOTHER FOR SIX (6)
YEARS - HERE WE GO AGAIN.

IN THE MEANTIME THE CONSUMER HAS HOPES OF HEARING
SOME ACTION BY THE F.C.C.

IS THIS TOO MUCH TO ASK?

WHAT IS YOUR INTENTION?

PLEASE ADVISE!

TOM PROMOS

2241 CLEVELAND AVE.

W. LAWN, PA 19609

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MEDFORD CABLE TELEVISION

ORIGINAL
FILE

92110448

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Phone 395-2628
724 West Cherokee
P.O. Box 10
MEDFORD, OKLAHOMA 73759

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON DC 20554

92-266

NOV 12 3 19 PM '92

RECEIVED

ALFRED SILKES Fee CHAIRMAN
ALSO ALL Fee COMMISSIONERS

I BUILT A CABLE SYSTEM FROM SCRATCH
JAN-1972 IT WAS TURNED ON, IF RETRANS
MISSION IS INTRODUCED THE BROADCASTERS
OWE ME A BROADCAST CARRYING FEE.
TO CARRY THEIR SIGNAL IN THIS AREA,
THEIR SIGNAL WAS UNACCEPTABLE IN THIS
AREA TILL MY SYSTEM WAS BUILT

I COMMEND THE COMMISSION ON THE
CLI TESTING FOR CABLE SYSTEMS. THIS
MAKES FOR BETTER CABLE OPERATORS.

AS FOR THE COMMISSION TO IMPOSE
RETRANSMISSION FEES AND TO REGULATE US
IN THE MARKET PLACE WILL TAKE MOST VIABLE
TIME OF THE COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT
THIS PART OF THE LAW.

SO I SUGGEST TO THE COMMISSION THAT
IF THEY REGULATE CABLE OPERATORS THEY
REGULATE POWER COMPANYS, TELEPHONE, GAS
AND OTHERS, WE ARE NOT GUARANTEED A 15%
20% RATE OF RETURN AS OTHER COMPANIES

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MEDFORD CABLE TELEVISION, INC.

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DEC 21 1992

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Phone 395-2628
724 West Cherokee
P.O. Box 10
MEDFORD, OKLAHOMA 73759

ARE.

WHEN AN OIL COMPANY COMES
TO TOWN AND PAYS A 6 MIL DOLLAR
PLANT OFF IN LESS THEN SIX
YEARS, SOMEONE NEEDS TO BE REGULATED
IF THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION
IS TO PROTECT THE CONSUMER.

ALSO "COMMISSIONERS" WE MUST GIVE
OUR CUSTOMERS 30 DAYS NOTICE
BEFORE WE CAN RAISE OUR RATES
AND THE CITY COUNCIL HAS GREAT "POWERS"
TO CANCEL OUR FRANCHISE AT
ANY TIME.

PLEASE RECONSIDER THE REGULATION AND
RETRANSMISSION RULES OF THE RECENT CABLE
BILL.

E.W. Ketchum Pres.
Medford Okla.
73759.

92-266 /

REPLY COMMENTS TO THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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FILE

Concerning implementation of Section 10
of the
Cable Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

From the

AUSTIN CABLE COMMISSION

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DEC 21 1992

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Comments prepared by Stuart Heady, Chairman
December 15, 1992

Austin, Texas

Austin, Texas has one of the nations largest and most complex cable systems and one of the oldest cable access programs, and as a community has become a leader among communities nationwide in regard to finding the balances that govern access in a way that seeks to bring out the best potential for community betterment. This has been achieved through 20 years of worry, argument, and public contest over all the possible problems. We have learned at the local level how to achieve a stable working consensus, which contains room for disagreements to evolve into solutions.

From this perspective, we would hope that the F.C.C. keep uppermost in its considerations, that for local communities perhaps the most important implication of developing new technology (whether it be cable-related or anything else that might be within the F.C.C. purview) is that of promoting a diversified and broadened participation by members of all segments of the community in dialogue about the local future. This cable technology, through the public interest aspects of its usage, has been primarily valuable in focusing citizens and the community's leadership on local problem-solving issues in a way that is beyond conventional capabilities for local governments. We see in this approach to the use of new technology, the beginnings of a 21st century community communications infrastructure.

In regard to public access, we base our entire system on a statement of policy, worked out over a two year period of intense difficulty, contained in a preamble to the public access rules and procedures and a contract warranty, which each access user signs. This warrants that the person in question accepts all consequences that might result from being found worthy of legal penalty.

The prescription in Miller v California that calls on local community standards seems unavoidable since the only real effective authority for resolving disputation of a serious nature concerning free speech issues is the court system. It seems very doubtful that corporate officers or city councils can really be substituted convincingly or Constitutionally.

The immediate effect of the 1992 Cable Act would seem to be to put the cable companies in a position of mandatory editorial control over access content. Freedom of Speech that is controlled by another's interests, other than the speaker, is not, nor can it ever be, Free Speech.

As we reviewed and studied through our local crisis period, we discovered that individual liability was not merely a convenient deterrent to gratuitous provocation, but that it is a profoundly essential basis for any freedom whatsoever. It is a core principle of the Constitutional framers' whole belief system, that individual freedom is best guaranteed by individual acceptance of the liabilities and consequences flowing from the exercise of that freedom, under legal constraints imposed by society through the courts and legislatures.

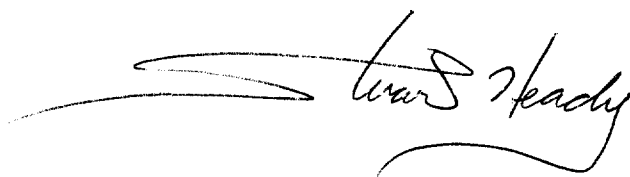
In our crisis, we also discovered that what we need from the national leadership is clear, unavoidably simple and stone-tablet like statements of principle. Except for panels like a cable commission which can be absorbed in deep deliberation on one issue like this, there is no time for local officials to sort out larger questions. Constitutional crises bring out frustration and anger, because they are not central to the mission of local government.

We bear the burden of public nuisances whose purpose is to see how far the patience of others can be tested, or perhaps to see if freedom is real. But the system is by far weighted in favor of those who have constructive community-oriented purposes in mind.

This is the result of leadership and management cultivating community values, a vital and passionate citizenry, a recognition that learning how to use the First Amendment is a necessary challenge, and that putting the non-profit community's funding mechanisms and structured social betterment agendas in a governing role creates powerful incentives in a constructive direction. This is contract management.

The question is: "How can the Right of American citizens to First Amendment Freedom of Speech be guaranteed in the coming electronic era?"

The issue before you now is one of great moment.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ward Heady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Appendix A

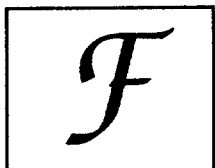
Preamble to the Austin public access
rules and procedures

In Austin, Texas, the City Council delegates the duty of promulgating rules and procedures for the usage of public access resources to the Austin Cable Commission, which is a nine member body appointed by the Council and established by an ordinance.

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Freedom of speech, as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, is a basic, defining principle of democracy at the community level, both for the general citizenry and for the leaders of municipal government. Robust and open discourse, through public access to television, promotes the social health of the community.

Public Access Television in Austin is managed under a first-come, first-served, content-neutral programming policy, which ensures fair and equal opportunity for all users of the service.

All rules and procedures for the use of public access resources are based on the principle that each program's creator (producer) is personally responsible for his or her expression, that this is the best means of guaranteeing individual freedom of speech rights. Therefore, it is the producer --not the City of Austin, its officials, or the managers of public access resources-- who is completely and solely responsible for the exercise of his or her free speech rights, and any legal consequences arising therefrom.

The legality of any given speech or expression may only be determined by a court of law. Because of this, and the First Amendment concerns above, the City does not make any regulations concerning the content of speech cablecast over the public access facilities, other than requiring its legality. The City's role is restricted to providing a conduit for the exercise of individual, non-profit, free speech, and it therefore assumes no responsibility for the content of such expression.

Producers' free speech rights are protected and enhanced by public access television. But the responsibilities inherent in the right of free expression should not be taken lightly. It is the producer who must analyze the effect of his or her program on the community, and determine the appropriateness of the material to be cablecast, and who must weigh and understand his or her liability.

This is the price we as free citizens pay for the opportunity of free speech in America.

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GEORGE F. SOUTHWORTH
R.D. 3 BOX 3171
NEW TRIPOLI
PENNSYLVANIA 18066

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
December 15, 1992

92-2667

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I am writing to inform you that Blue Ridge Cable Division, my only local cable company, is increasing their charges to me for 1993 by an excess of 17% compared with the 1992 charges for the same service. They are adding one new channel - Sci-Fi - for 1993.

Since their annual rate increases over recent years have been quite reasonable and justifiable, it is quite clear to me that they are going for a

by means before the new cable
television legislation becomes law next
year

Since they are really an unregulated
monopoly at this time - I have no
alternative if I want cable TV - I
believe the FCC should pressure Blue
Ridge and the other cable companies
engaged in the same power play into
re-adjusting their 1943 rates to more
moderate levels

I will be watching for FCC action
in this direction over the coming weeks.

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Very truly yours,

George F. Southworth

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James W. Landrum DEC 21 1992
4870 Pool Road

Winston, Ga. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
December 15, 1992 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Federal Communications Commission
Complaints and Investigation
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington D.C. , 20554

92-266

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to file a complaint with you about a rate increase I have received from Douglas County Cable TV, operated by Wometco Cable, where I live.

Due to my disdain with the high increases associated with cable TV, I voted for the Cable TV Act in the previous election. Now, after lobbying friends and coworkers to vote for the ACT, I find my monthly cable bill going up just in time to beat the enactment of the new laws. I find this to be extremely distasteful, due to all the other increases over the past few years. It seems to me that they are gouging the public one last time before being regulated again.

I am sending a copy of this to my Senator and Congressman to try and stop this gross error in judgment by the cable TV operators around the country. Please investigate this company and prosecute to the fullest if possible. Also, it would be a good idea to have Wometco Cable TV refund to its customers any unnecessary increases. I have enclosed copies of my bills from previous months and a current bill for your use in this investigation. I look forward to hearing from you on the action you have taken to correct the great injustice against the American people.

Thank You Very Much,

James W. Landrum
James W. Landrum

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DOUGLASVILLE 942-0010
 FAIRFIELD 830-1134
 VILLA RICA 459-1217

ACCOUNT NUMBER	SERVICE FROM	SERVICE TO	DATE DUE
001 0087811	OCTOBER 12, 1992	NOVEMBER 11, 1992	10/24/92

DATE	SERVICE/TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
9/16	PREVIOUS BALANCE	34.92
	PAYMENT - THANK YOU	34.92 CR
	MONTHLY SERVICE	33.90
	FRANCHISE FEES	1.02
	AMOUNT DUE	\$34.92

Handwritten notes:
 DD 10-15-92
 34.92

Stamp:
 PAYMENT RECEIVED
 OCT 24 1992

PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER OCTOBER 02 ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS STATEMENT												
PREVIOUS BALANCE	-	PAYMENTS THANK YOU	+	CURRENT CHARGES	-	CREDITS	+	OTHER CHARGES (SEE ABOVE)	+	TAX/FEE	=	AMOUNT DUE
34.92	-	34.92	+	33.90	-	0.00	+	0.00	+	1.02	=	\$34.92

AN AMOUNT FOLLOWED BY A (CR) IS A CREDIT OR A CREDIT BALANCE

VILLA RICA 459-1217

AN AMOUNT FOLLOWED BY A (CR) IS A CREDIT OR A CREDIT BALANCE

**WOMETCO CABLE TV**

WOMETCO CABLE TV OF DOUGLAS COUNTY
 5979 FAIRBURN RD; DOUGLASVILLE, GA
 30134 8310 1000 818

WT 7 02

DATE DECEMBER 02, 1992

ACCT. # 001 0087811

USE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE
 AND MAKE PAYMENT TO

WOMETCO CABLE TV
 PO BOX 105620
 ATLANTA, GA 30348

AMOUNT DUE

\$36.98

DATE DUE

12/24/92

AMOUNT
ENCLOSED

\$

PLEASE DETACH AND ENCLOSE TOP PORTION WITH PAYMENT.



JAMES LANDRUM
 4870 POOL RD
 WINSTON GA 30187-1024

831010001008781100036988

DOUGLASVILLE 942-0010
 FAIRFIELD 830-1134
 VILLA RICA 459-1217

ACCOUNT NUMBER	SERVICE FROM	SERVICE TO	DATE DUE
001 0087811	DECEMBER 12, 1992	JANUARY 11, 1993	12/24/92
DATE	SERVICE/TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT
11/25	PREVIOUS BALANCE		35.67
	PAYMENT - THANK YOU		35.67 CR
	MONTHLY SERVICE		35.90
	FRANCHISE FEES		1.08
	AMOUNT DUE		\$36.98

PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER DECEMBER 02 ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS STATEMENT

PREVIOUS BALANCE		PAYMENTS THANK YOU		CURRENT CHARGES		CREDITS		OTHER CHARGES (SEE ABOVE)		TAX/FEE		AMOUNT DUE
35.67	-	35.67	+	35.90	-	0.00	+	0.00	+	1.08	=	\$36.98

AN AMOUNT FOLLOWED BY A (CR) IS A CREDIT OR A CREDIT BALANCE

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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

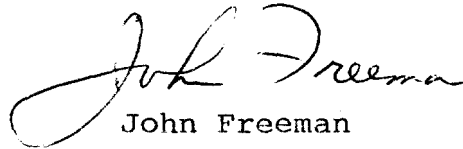
P.O. Box 852
Holly Hill, FL 32125
December 15, 1992

ORIGINAL
FILE

92-2661

Our cable company does not provide the Science Fiction channel.
They did raise their rates from \$21 to \$24. What can I do?

Cablevision Industries (CVI)
1655 State Road 472
Deland, FL 32723-6001
(904) 767-6811


John Freeman

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 Hillcrest Drive, NGM,
Dallas, Penna. 18612

December 14, 1992

92-266

Alfred Sikes, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Mass Media Bureau
2025 M Street, NW
Room 8210
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Chairman Sikes,

As a retired senior living on a fixed income,
I protest the unwarranted second (2nd) rate increase in cable television
monthly rates by the Tele-Media Company of Luzerne County, Memorial
Highway, Dallas, Pennsylvania, 18612. This proposed increase is
the second rate increase in 1992 and the cable company is blaming
it on the new cable rate-regulation law. It is supposed to go into
effect as of 1/1/93 and is nothing more than pure greed. It's
too bad that there is no competition.

I ask that your agency do it's job and investigate
this over 20% increase in 1992. I also suggest that you allow competition
by allowing the phone company to also carry cable TV to the same
area where the Tele-Media has a monopoly and can charge as much as
it can. Let's see what good old-fashioned competition can do for
the American consumer!

Sincerely yours,



Al J. Baloga

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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MASS MEDIA BUREAU

December 14, 1992

DEC 17 1992

VIDEO SERVICES

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

92-266

Attention: Cable Branch
To Whom It May Concern

The cable TV company that serves my area in Atlanta, Georgia, (North DeKalb Cable) has just announced another price increase effective January 1, 1993.

This is outrageous. I pay more for basic cable than for my telephone bill. The cable TV companies have no competition and the service is poor.

I urge you to open up this entire arena to competition as soon as possible. Also, the cable TV companies need restraints placed on them until competition is a reality.

Marc F. Hayes

Marc F. Hayes
1131 West Nancy Creek Dr.
Atlanta, Georgia. 30319

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